

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13021 071926Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCA-00
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R 071554Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1855
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13021

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UR, US, CSCE, OTRA
SUBJECT: EMBASSY TRAVEL - AUGUST, 1977

REF: MOSCOW 11585

1. EMBASSY TRAVEL STATISTICS FOR AUGUST ARE AS FOLLOWS:

REQUESTS	DESTINATIONS	TRAVELERS SELF-	REFUSED/ CANCELLED	ALTERED
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2. TRAVEL REQUESTS DENIED OR ALTERED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

ULLA HOLVIALA, AN EMBASSY GOVERNESS, AND KARI TUUKKANEN, AN EMBASSY COOK, WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL BY TRAIN FROM IRKUTSK TO NOVOSIBIRSK AUGUST 10-14, ON GROUNDS THAT TWO STOPS ON THE ITINERARY (KRASNOYARSK AND TOMSK) WERE CLOSED CITIES. THEIR TRAVEL PLANS WERE AMENDED AND THEY TRAVELED BY AIR FROM IRKUTSK TO NOVOSIBIRSK.

3. RAYMOND BENSON, COUNSELOR FOR PRESS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND HIS FAMILY OF FOUR, WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO BELIY, MOSCOW OBLAST, ON AUGUST 13 ON GROUNDS THAT THE CITY LAY WITHIN A CLOSED AREA. THE
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EMBASSY REQUESTED AN EXCEPTION, STATING THAT BELIY WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF MR. BENSON'S MOTHER, BUT THE REQUEST WAS DENIED.

4. SUSAN HEWITT, EMBASSY SECRETARY, AND HER GUEST MARGARET HEWITT, WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL FROM MOSCOW TO IRKUTSK BY RAIL AUGUST 21, ON GROUNDS

THAT THE NOVOSIBIRSK-IRKUTSK RAIL LINE IS OFF LIMITS
TO FOREIGN TRAVELERS. THE HEWITTS EVENTUALLY MADE
THE TRIP BY PLANE.

5. THE MOST FLAGRANT INSTANCES OF SOVIET HARASSMENT
OCCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH TWO TRIP NOTES FILED BY
NORMA JAEGER, AN EMBASSY SECRETARY AND HER HOUSEGUEST
NOLA GROSS, A RETIRED TACHER FROM AUSTRALIA. IN THE
FIRST CASE, JAEGER AND GROSS WERE DENIED PERMISSION
"FOR TEMPORARY REASONS" TO TRAVEL TO ROSTOV AND
PERESLAVL ZALESKY ON AUGUST 25. NOTIFICATION OF THE
TURNDOWN CAME LATE IN THE EVENING OF AUGUST 24.
PERMISSION WAS GRANTED TO TRAVEL TO ZAGROSK ON THE SAME
DAY. IN THE SECOND INSTANCE, JAEGER AND GROSS WERE
DENIED PERMISSION " FOR TEMPORARY REASONS" TO TRAVEL TO
LENINGRAD AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 2. AGAIN, NOFIFICATION
OF THE TURNDOWN CAME THE NIGHT BEFORE THE TRIP, THOUGH
THE MFA HAD RECEIVED THE NOTE SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER.

6. THE EMBASSY SHARPLY QUESTIONED MFA PROTOCOL
OFFICERS AND FEDOSEYEV OF THE USA DIVISION ON THE
JAEGER-GROSS TURNDOWNS, AND ASKED FOR A FULLER
EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR DENYING THEM PERMISSION
TO TRAVEL. THUS FAR, NO EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN
FORTHCOMING. SUBSEQUENTLY, PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF
OUR PROTESTS, JAEGER AND GROSS WERE PERMITTED TO VISIT
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BORODINO ON SEPTEMBER 2. LATER INCIDENTS HAVE
CONFIRMED THAT THE SUBJECT OF SOVIET HARASSMENT IS
GROSS, NOT JAEGER. THE REASONING BEHIND THIS
SOVIET HARASSMENT, IF THERE IS ANY, REMAINS OBSCURE.

7. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON
RETALIATION.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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